

What is claimed:

1. An ablation catheter which comprises:

a guiding catheter; and

an inner catheter disposed within said guiding catheter, said inner catheter comprising an elongated central shaft having a distal end, and an electrode assembly attached to the distal end of said elongated central shaft, said electrode assembly comprising a catheter tube having a plurality of apertures therethrough, a linear electrode, a porous tip electrode, and a device for articulating said electrode assembly.

2. The catheter tube of claim 1 wherein said linear electrode is made from a combination of hypodermic tubing and solid wire.

3. The catheter of claim 1 further comprising monitoring electrodes nonconductively mounted on said linear electrode.

4. The catheter tube of claim 1 wherein the articulating device comprises at least one pull wire attached to a distal end of said electrode assembly.

5. The catheter tube of claim 1 wherein said catheter tube is made from shape memory tubing, thereby allowing said catheter tube to bend to a predetermined shape upon the application of radio frequency energy.

6. The catheter of Claim 1, positioned within a lumen of an outer guiding catheter, said guiding catheter having a second catheter steering mechanism.

7. An ablation catheter, which catheter comprises:

a flexible plastic catheter tube; and

at least one linear electrode comprising a tubular array of conductive metal strands carried by said catheter tube, which catheter has a first steering mechanism; and a guiding catheter having a lumen occupied by said ablation catheter, said guiding catheter having a second steering mechanism.

8. The catheter of Claim 7 in which said plastic catheter tube extends through said tubular array of conductive metal strands, said catheter tube defining a plurality of apertures to permit the flow of cooling fluid from the lumen of the catheter tube and through said apertures, to flow among said conductive metal strands.

9. The catheter of Claim 7 in which a porous second electrode connects with one end of the plastic catheter tube.